

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2026

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB979

Chairperson: Senator Tom Brandt

Committee: Natural Resources

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB979 updates and modernizes Nebraska's Game and Parks statutes by revising definitions related to wildlife damage abatement and clarifying the agency's authority to conduct abatement activities on private lands. It updates statutory language regarding the use of funds received for abatement and investigative purposes and expands authorized uses of investigative funds.

The bill authorizes the Game and Parks Commission to charge cost-based fees for wildlife education programs requested by outside groups and to accept donations for wildlife education. It increases and adjusts fee caps for licenses, permits, applications, stamps, registrations, and related programs, including lifetime permits, big game permits, specialty permits, game breeding and controlled shooting areas, and motorboat registrations.

The legislation updates permit application processes to allow post-draw preference point purchases and places certain program details under commission rules and regulations. It revises requirements related to personal flotation devices for personal watercraft to align with current federal standards.

Finally, the bill creates a new statutory section addressing wildlife commercialization and trafficking, including aggregation of violations and enhanced penalties for qualifying offenses.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tom Brandt